

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 SAJ-01 NEA-10 NIC-01

CU-04 MC-02 EB-11 STR-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /175 W

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P R 131040Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2966

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR

SUBJECT: SOME ESCALATION IN SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF WAR

1. SOVIET MEDIA TREATMENT OF ME ESCALATED SLIGHTLY OCTOBER 13. PUBLICATION OF TASS STATEMENT PUTS THE WAR ON FRONT PAGE OF PRAVDA FOR FIRST DAY SINCE OCTOBER 8. GOVERNMENT STATEMENT. THE TASS ASSERTIONS THAT "SOVIET UNION CANNOT REGARD CRIMINAL ACTIONS OF ISRAELI MILITARY WITH INDIFFERENCE" AND THAT "CONTINUATION OF CRIMINAL ACTS BY ISRAEL WILL LEAD TO GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL ITSELF" ARE STRONGEST OFFICIAL SOVIET COMMENT SO FAR. THE THREAT IS NEVERTHELESS LEFT VAGUE, COMMITTING SOVIETS TO NOTHING.

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2. GENERAL PRESS EMPHASIS TODAY IS ON ISRAELI ACTIONS AGAINST CIVILIAN POPULATION AND INNOCENT BYSTANDERS, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SOVIET VICTIMS. BOTH TASS STATEMENT AND SEPARATE PRAVDA ACCOUNT DESCRIBE SINKING OF SOVIET SHIP IN SYRIAN PORT, THOUGH LATTER ACCOUNT NOTES THAT THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES AMONG SOVIET SAILORS. TASS STATEMENT REFERS TO SOVIET AND SYRIAN VICTIMS OF BOMBING OF SOVIET CULTURAL CENTER IN DAMASCUS, ALTHOUGH ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE MAKES CLEAR THAT ONLY ONE SOVIET WOMAN WAS KILLED. TASS STATEMENT ALSO SPEAKS OF (UNSPECIFIED) VICTIMS AMONG SOVIET CITIZENS IN EGYPT.

3. PRAVDA PLAYS WESTERN PRESS REPORTS CONCERNING US MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL (UNDER SUBHEAD "PLANS FOR AMERICAN MILITARY DELIVERIES TO TEL AVIV"). MADRID "YA" REPORT OF 150 AMERICAN FLIERS ALLEGEDLY HEADED FOR ISRAEL IS CARRIED, AS ARE NYT AND AP REPORTS CONCERNING SHIPMENTS OF ROCKETS AND AMMUNITION AND DISCUSSION OF PLANS TO TRANSFER TO ISRAEL PHANTOMS BASED IN WESTERN EUROPE. MOVEMENTS OF IWO JIMA ALSO REPORTED.

4. AS BALANCING FACTOR, PRAVDA RAN FIVE-PARAGRAPH FAVORABLE TASS ACCOUNT OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S MEETING WITH BUSINESS LEADERS, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO FREE TRADE ASPECTS OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.
DUBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW12669
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731034/aaaaayuc.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOME ESCALATION IN SOVIET PRESS TREATMENT OF WAR
TAGS: PFOR, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005